

**National Guard Association of Minnesota
State Conference Business Meeting Minutes
23 April 2006**

1. **Call to Order**

President Gutknecht called to order the state conference business meeting of the National Guard Association of Minnesota at 0815 hours on 23 April 2006 at the Bloomington Ramada Inn.

2. **Invocation/Opening Remarks**

The invocation was given by Chaplain Severson. Opening marks were given by President (LTC) Gutknecht.

3. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was read by Secretary (Capt) Brian Winter. Motion to accept the minutes of the 2005 State Conference was carried.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Col (Ret) Al Timm reviewed the Cash Flow and Net Worth report. Motion to accept the report was carried.

5. **Membership Report**

State membership for 2006 is currently at about 46-47% vs. 65% last year. There was a discussion by the membership on ways to increase the membership percentage. Some of the ideas discussed were an installment plan to pay state and life dues, forming a membership committee and campaign plan, promoting the efforts the association is taking on on behalf of its members, promoting the conference as a family event to overcome the stereotype of being an alcohol-centric event. The "return on investment" needs to be better communicated to attract members.

6. **Time and Place Report**

Capt Winter reported the following locations for upcoming conferences: 2007 in Duluth (hosted by the 148th FW and 2/194th ARS), 2008 in St. Cloud (hosted by JFHQ Camp Ripley and 134th BSB). 2009 conference location TBD. There was some discussion on the timing of the 2007 conference in Duluth regarding the dates having been moved to 23-25 March and a conflict with the timing of the 148th's AEF deployment and the return of the 34th ID troops from Iraq. A motion to review the possibility of changing these dates was approved. The board will discuss the possibility of changing the dates.

Walt Schulz presented the 2007 National Conference location in Albuquerque, NM.

7. **Youth Camp Report**

MAJ Jim Swanson gave the Youth Camp Report. The camp is the first two weeks in August. There are two teen and two youth camps. Volunteers are needed and the camp cost is \$115/child for guard members' children only. There are other military focused

camps available also: Operation Purple in Hudson, WI and the Elks Club of MN camp which will sponsor 60 youths for free.

8. **Camp Ripley Training Center 75th Anniversary Report**

COL Richard Weaver gave a report on the upcoming events surrounding the 75th Anniversary of Camp Ripley coming up on June 10th, 2006. There was a collection to raise funds for the Youth Camp.

9. **NGAUS Report**

Ms. Hazel Booker, Director, Industry and Association Liaison reported on the processes for resolution, NGAUS task forces, and Army and Air legislative priorities. She also spoke of the National Guard Education Foundation fundraiser to honor the heroes of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom at the National Guard Museum in Washington, DC. Pledge forms are available at www.ngaus.org, they are trying to raise \$50,000 for the exhibit.

10. **Tricare Legislation Report**

Ms. Margaret Franklin of Triwest spoke about the Tricare Reserve Select medical coverage program. It is offered at 28% less cost than a typical Blue Cross Blue Shield plan. Guard members can purchase 1 year of insurance for every 90 days of active duty. Congress is currently reviewing a plan that would allow traditional guardsmen to participate in Tricare Reserve Select effective in October 2006. DVDs on the program are available free through Triwest.

11. **Resolutions**

Lt Col Dahlquist presented the NGAUS resolutions to the membership. There was a motion on draft resolution A-6 to raise the bonus amount from \$8000 to \$15,000 for newly appointed commissioned officers and warrant officers, motion carried. Motion to approve the resolutions was carried.

12. **By-law Changes**

Maj Paul Jacobsen proposed several changes to the by-laws. Most notably were the removal of the numbered Groups to clarify and more accurately reflect the unit structure and a change to allow the president to serve two consecutive 1 year terms to ensure continuity in the association. The by-law changes were approved by membership.

13. **VFW Report**

Mr. Pershing, National Executive Committeeman for MN, spoke on the history and purpose of the VFW and the services its members provide.

14. **NGAUS Legislative Report**

LTC Gutknecht requested that members contact their elected representatives in support of the Veteran's Benefits bill before the MN legislature. In twelve months, the largest group of combat veterans ever will be returning to MN.

15. **Keynote Speaker**
US Congressman, John Kline, gave the keynote speech.
16. **Air Report**
BG Schuessler gave the Air Report.
17. **Army Report**
BG Kennedy gave the Army Report
18. **34th Division Report**
MG Erlandson gave the 34th Div Report
19. **TAG Report**
MG Shellito gave the Adjutant General's Report
20. **Officer Elections**
CGO Reps: Prim – CPT Dan Dobler, Alt – 2LT Neil Scott
Retiree Group Rep: MAJ Carl Madsen (Ret)
Secretary: Capt Brian Winter
Treasurer: Col Al Timm (Ret)
President: LTC Kevin Gutknecht for a second term
21. **Meeting Adjourned**
At 1240 hours.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Brian C. Winter